the Ontario boundary. The railway, completed in 1914, was built to serve the aqueduct that carries Winnipeg's fresh water supplies to the city from Shoal Lake. Besides transporting freight and maintenance equipment for the aqueduct, the GWWDR carries commercial gravel mined at Ross, about 50 km east of Winnipeg.

Burlington Northern (Manitoba) Ltd., a subsidiary of the American railway Burlington Northern of St. Paul, Minnesota, operates freight services between Winnipeg and the U.S. border, connecting with BN's American lines. Although the railway ownsrail yards and facilities in Winnipeg, its trains travel over CN tracks to the border.

## PORT CHURCHILI

Although Manitoba is a central plains province, it also has a maritime aspect—the port of Churchill. Located at the mouth of the Churchill River on Hudson Bay, Churchill offers a short route to European markets since it is only 4,725 kilometres from Liverpool, England.

The mouth of the river was found in 1619 by a Danish expedition led by Jens Munk. The expedition was forced to winter at Churchill and 62 of the 65 members died of scurvy or exposure. Munk and the other two survivors managed to sail their ship back to Europe in 1620.

In 1717 the Hudson's Bay Company built its first fort in the area. A massive stone fort, Fort Prince of Wales, was begun in 1731, took 40 years to complete, and still stands on a point opposite the modern town of Churchill.

After a number of unsuccessful attempts and considerable delay, construction of a railway to Hudson Bay began in 1910 at The Pas, but was halted in 1918 because of wartime pressures. The original terminus of the Hudson Bay Railway had been fixed at Port Nelson, at the mouth of the Nelson River, but when construction resumed in 1927 this was changed to Churchill, which has a natural harbor. Commercial traffic on the 820 km railway began in 1931, when major port facilities were completed at Churchill.

The first marine shipment out of the port was in 1929, when one ton of bagged grain was loaded on board the Hudson's Bay Company ship "Nascopie" for shipment to Europe. The port now handles about 500,000 tonnes of grain annually, as well as general bulk cargo, fuel oil and several tons of pellets made from refuse grain.

The shipping season is generally limited to the period during which marine insuranc companies will cover conventional-type ships (July 20 to October 31) and shippin activity is distributed fairly throughout that period.

Churchill also has a modern airport and the town is the base of a supply service for communities in the Arctic.

## TELEPHONES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Manitoba Telephone System, owned by the provincial government and operated by a board of commissioners, provides a wide range of sophisticated telecommunications services to the entire province. Areas of responsibility include local and long distance telephone service, broadcast and cable television distribution facilities and computer communications. MTS is part of the 10-member TransCanada Telephone System.

The first telephones in Manitoba were offered for sale by Bell Telephone in 1877 and simply linked two homes or businesses. In 1881, Bell established a system with 26 subscribers in Winnipeg. Systems were installed in Portage la Prairie and Brandon in 1882. A number of municipalities and private groups set up small, independent systems in other parts of the province during the next 25 years.

In 1908, the Bell system was purchased by Manitoba Government Telephones, which became a Crown corporation in 1933 and the Manitoba Telephone System in 1940.

The first automatic exchange in Manitoba was installed in Brandon in 1917. The completion of an automatic dial system in Winnipeg in 1926 made the city the largest in North America to have this type of service.

As of January, 1982, there were more than 733,000 telephones in the province—all dial-operated. Winnipeg is served by 466,000 telephones and some 267,000 serve the remainder of the province. Calling has reached a yearly level of more than 1.3 billion local and more than 60,000,000 long distance calls.

Three microwave radio networks joining northern and southern Manitoba provide regular long distance service to virtually all communities with populations of 50 or more. These networks also bring live CBC network television and radio to most communities with populations of 500 or more.

Direct distance dialing is available to more than 97 per cent of the System's customers. Direct dialing overseas is in operation in Winnipeg, Thompson, Brandon, and a number of other Manitoba communities.

Telephone service in rural Manitoba is steadily being improved. Under the Rural Service Improvement Program, which was completed in 1981, multi-party line loadings were reduced to no more than four per line (with an average of 2.8). As well, individual line service was extended to customers in 170 communities which previously had multi-party service. The extensive use of buried cable assures a reliable, all-weather communications network.

## RADIO AND TELEVISION

Radio stations in Manitoba are: Altona-Steinbach-Boissevain, CFAM-CHSM-CJRB; Brandon, CKLQ, CKX and CJCM-FM; Cross Lake, CFNC (Native Communications, Inc.); Dauphin, CKDM; Flin Flon, CFAR; Morden, CISV; Portage la Prairie, CFRY; St. Boniface, CKSB (CBC-French language); The Pas, CJAR; Thompson, CHTM; Winnipeg, CFRW and CHIQ-FM, CBW and CBW-FM (CBC), CJOB and CHMM-FM, CKRC and CKWG-FM, CKY and CITI-FM, and CKJS (multilingual). The CBC has English-language rebroadcasters at Brandon, Dauphin-Swan River, Churchill, Easterville, Fairford, Fisher Branch, Flin Flon, Gillam, Grand Rapids, Gods Lake Narrows, Ilford, Jackhead, Leaf Rapids, Little Grand Rapids, Lynn Lake, Manigotagan, Moose Lake, Nelson House, Oxford House, Pukatawagan, Snow Lake, South Indian Lake, The Pas, Thompson, Garden Hill-St. Theresa Point-Waasagomach, and Wabowden.

Television stations in the province are: Brandon, CKX-TV, with rebroadcast transmitters at Foxwarren and Melita, and CKYB rebroadcasting programs of CKY Winnipeg; Thompson, CESM-TV (Cable), and CBWTT rebroadcasting programs of CBWT Winnipeg; Winnipeg, CKY-TV (CTV), CBWT (CBC), CBWFT (CBC-French language), and CKND-TV, which is expected to begin service in western Manitoba this fall through use of a rebroadcasting tower located near Minnedosa.

CKY Winnipeg has other rebroadcasting stations at Dauphin (CKYD), Fisher Branch, (CKYA), Flin Flon (CKYF), Snow Lake (CKYS), The Pas (CKYP), and Thompson (CKYT).

Other CBC rebroadcasters for CBWT are at Churchill, Cross Lake, Dauphin-Swan River, Easterville, Fairford, Fisher Branch, Flin Flon, Gillam, Grand Rapids, Gods Lake Narrows, Ilford-Split Lake, Jackhead, Lac du Bonnet, Leaf Rapids, Little Grand Rapids, Lynn Lake, Mafeking, Manigotagan, Moose Lake, Nelson House, Norway